

Message Text

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ACTION VO-03

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 SCA-01 /011 W

-----320002Z 007198 /64

R 311624Z MAY 77

FM AMEMBASSY CARACAS

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7824

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE CARACAS 5389

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UR, US, VE

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE DEPORTATION OF BOTH BRAZINSKAS TO VENEZUELA

1. EMBASSY NOTES DEPARTMENT ASSUMES THAT GOV WOULD BE DISPOSED TO ACCEPT PRANAS AND ALGIRDAS BRAZINSKAS SHOULD THEY BE DEPORTED BY USG. PRESUMABLY THIS ASSUMPTION IS BASED ON FACTS THAT (A) VENEZUELA ACCEPTED THEM IN 1976 IN THE FULL KNOWLEDGE OF THEIR ANTECEDENTS AND (B) BOTH MEN WERE IN THE PROCESS OF OBTAINING RESIDENT STATUS IN VENEZUELA WHEN THEY LEFT FOR THE U.S. EMBASSY IS NOT SURE GOV WOULD TODAY WELCOME BACK THE BRAZINSKAS.

2. VENEZUELA HAS A TRADITION OF GRANTING ASYLUM TO THE POLITICALLY OPPRESSED. THIS IS A STRONGLY HELD COMMITMENT. PRESUMABLY BRAZINSKAS ENTERED VENEZUELA FAVORED BY THIS. AT THE TIME, FACT THAT THEY WERE SKYJACKERS WAS NOT A PROMINENT ISSUE. NOW, HOWEVER, IT IS AND VENEZUELA TAKES A TOUGH ANTI-TERRORIST POSITION. VENEZUELAN PRESS REPORTED RECENTLY STATE DEPARTMENT'S SPOKESMAN'S COMMENTS THAT BRAZINSKAS MIGHT BE DEPORTED TO VENEZUELA. THOSE STORIES REPORTED THEIR SKYJACKING IN THE SOVIET UNION. THE REACTION OF VENEZUELA INTERPOL CHIEF, CESAR QUERO, TO THE STORY WHEN QUESTIONED BY THE PRESS WAS THAT THERE WAS NO RECORD OF THEIR HAVING BEEN IN VENEZUELA AND THAT THERE WAS THEREFORE "NO VENEZUELAN CONNECTION" WITH LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE BRAZINSKAS. THIS MAY HAVE REFLECTED THE FACT THAT GOV RECORDS AND INTRA-GOVERNMENTAL COORDINATION ARE BAD. IT MAY ALSO HAVE REFLECTED VENEZUELAN RELUCTANCE TO HAVE ANYTHING FURTHER TO DO WITH THEM IN THE LIGHT OF PUBLICITY ABOUT THEIR SKYJACKING AND THE FACT THAT U.S. PREPARED TO DEPORT THEM BECAUSE THEY COMMITTED SERIOUS NON-POLITICAL CRIME OF A TERRORSIT NATURE. IN SHORT, EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT,

DESPITE VENEZUELAN TRADITION OF GRANTING ASYLUM, THE GOV'S
STRONG ANTI-TERRORIST STANCE WILL ALSO COME INTO PLAY WHEN
DECIDING WHETHER TO REACCEPT BRAZINSKAS; THUS OUTCOME
IS NOT CLEAR. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BEAR THIS IN MIND
AND CONSIDER OTHER COUNTRIES AS
FALLBACKS FOR POSSIBLE DEPORTATION.
VAKY

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POLICIES, EXPULSION, POLITICAL ASYLUM, AIRCRAFT HIJACKING, TERRORISTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 31-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
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